

**Changes to the
Massachusetts List of Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species
May 24, 2006
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**

Action	Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name/Common Name	Current Rank	New Rank	Justification
Addition	Vascular Plant	<i>Cynoglossum virginianum</i> var. <i>boreale</i> Northern Wild Comfrey	-	E	A single current occurrence is known from the Commonwealth. Prior to this re-discovery, the plant was last documented in Massachusetts in 1906. Based on the small number of historic locations in Massachusetts, it appears that this species has always been rare here. The rarity and threat to <i>C. virginianum</i> var. <i>boreale</i> in Massachusetts justifies its addition to the list as Endangered.
Addition	Vascular Plant	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> ssp. <i>inexpansa</i> New England Northern Reed Grass	-	E	This regionally rare native plant was recently discovered for the first time in Mass., and its identification has been confirmed by Dr. Craig Greene, a taxonomic expert in the genus <i>Calamagrostis</i> who authored the name <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> ssp. <i>inexpansa</i> in a 1984 peer-reviewed journal. The taxon is considered rare throughout New England and a portion of Maritime Canada. It is rare in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut, but is more common in the western Great Lakes and across much of Canada. Moist, open, often rocky, habitats relatively free of interspecific competition (e.g., damp cliff faces, fire-disturbed summits) are required by this species, limiting its potential locations in Massachusetts.
Addition	Vascular Plant	<i>Carex mitchellianai</i> Mitchell's Sedge		T	Mitchell's sedge (<i>Carex mitchelliana</i>) is globally (G3G4), regionally (Div. 1, New England), and locally rare. In Massachusetts, the plant has been documented at only seventeen sites, seven of which are considered current (observed since 1978). Most of the collections of this species have been from Cape Cod, an area experiencing rapid development. In addition, the seasonally wet habitat of <i>Carex mitchelliana</i> is vulnerable to alterations in hydrology, in an area of the state placing a high demand on <u>water resources</u> .
Change in Status	Vascular Plant	<i>Viola adunca</i> Sand Violet	E	SC	The number of known current occurrences of <i>Viola adunca</i> has jumped from two to seventeen since 2000. Most new occurrences are in northern Worcester County, but the discovery or re-discovery of <i>V. adunca</i> from disparate locations in Middlesex and Franklin Counties indicates that the species should be sought, and will likely be found, in some other areas across northern Massachusetts. However, due to the temporary nature of the supporting habitats and the risk of their mismanagement (for the violet), we do not feel that the species is common or secure enough to warrant delisting at this time.

Change in Status	Vascular Plant	<i>Adlumia fungosa</i> Climbing Fumitory	T	SC	Recent reports of new occurrences have doubled the number of current occurrences to 24. Two of these new occurrences contain approx. 200 and 1000 individuals, respectively.
Deletion	Vascular Plant	<i>Artemisia campestris ssp. borealis</i> Boreal Wormwood	E	-	New taxonomic interpretation of Massachusetts' voucher specimens excludes this taxon from the Commonwealth, thus it must be delisted.
Deletion	Vascular Plant	<i>Carex recta</i> Eastern Saline Sedge	E	-	New taxonomic interpretation of Massachusetts' voucher specimens excludes this taxon from the Commonwealth, thus it must be delisted.
Deletion	Vascular Plant	<i>Sagina nodosa</i> Knotted Pearlwort	T	-	Because its status as a native species is in doubt, it is proposed for delisting until this question can be answered.
Deletion	An Invertebrate	<i>Lophopodella carteri</i> Carter's Moss Animal	SC	-	Carter's Moss Animal is now known to be exotic to Massachusetts. This Asian species has apparently attained a global distribution by being introduced in bilge water to freshwaters across the globe.
Deletion	Snail	<i>Vertigo perryi</i> Olive Vertigo	SC	-	The distribution of this small snail was poorly known. In 2004, NHESP contracted with two snail experts to explore the status of <i>V. perryi</i> in Massachusetts. They surveyed 35 wetlands in one week, and prepared a final report in which they conclude that this species is likely to be more common in appropriate habitat in MA. Nekola and Coles (2004) report that their “data indicate that <i>Vertigo perryi</i> is of frequent occurrence in wetlands in eastern Massachusetts, and that it appears to be a common component of several wetland types.”
Deletion	Crustacean	<i>Cambarus bartonii</i> Appalachian Brook Crayfish	SC	-	Delisting is proposed because it does not appear to be imperiled in MA. The current distribution closely resembles what would be expected under historical and current conditions. Though data are not available on trends, it is likely to reestablish in river reaches as they recover from a century of pollution. Several occurrences are on protected land. The area where the species is found includes some of the most rural lands in the state. The threat posed by introductions of nonnative crayfish can not be undone as releases have already taken place. Its habitat appears to be secure and few threats to its continued viability are evident.
Deletion	Dragonfly	<i>Gomphus borealis</i> Beaverpond Clubtail	SC	-	The Beaverpond Clubtail was thought to be rare in Massachusetts and vulnerable when it was listed. There are now 18 confirmed occurrences in MA, and 12 new reported observations from the last 2 years. The records come from a variety of boggy wetlands and beaverponds which are common throughout much of the state. Its North American distribution is eastern. It is found in a range of habitats, and is no longer considered to be a rare species.
Deletion	Moth	<i>Anisota stigma</i> Spiny Oakworm	SC	-	This species appears to be expanding its range and habitat types in MA. This species is now abundant and secure on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Mass Military Reservation on Cape Cod, and in Plymouth barrens. This species is also no longer confined to Scrub Oak barrens. It is now feeding on multiple oak species. It is the most common member of its family encountered on Martha's Vineyard.

Deletion	Bettle	<i>Desmocerus palliatus</i> Elderberry Long-Horned Beetle	SC	-	There are 25 pre-1978 records in the data base and more than 50 post-1978 records. It has been documented in more than 40 towns and most counties (except Dukes and Barnstable Counties). No immediate threats have been identified. Modest survey efforts have produced a significant number of new sites. The species appears not to require legal protection or species-specific conservation efforts in Massachusetts at this time. Many occurrences are on land that is actively managed to prevent canopy closure, thus favoring its host plant.
Deletion	Amphibian	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i> Spring Salamander	SC	-	<i>G. porphyriticus</i> is fairly widespread in the western half of the state. Current patterns of urbanization pose little threat to this species due to its preference for remote, hilly sites and the presence of many populations on conservation land.
Deletion	Reptile	<i>Clemmys guttata</i> Spotted Turtle	SC	-	Since the species was listed in 1986, occurrence records have been documented from 259 towns throughout all of its historic range across the state. There are now 966 known occurrences in MA. Significant areas of habitat for this species have been protected.

Rank: E = Endangered
T = Threatened
SC = Special Concern

	<u>Vertebrates</u>	<u>Invertebrates</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Addition	-	-	3	3
Deletion	2	6	3	11
Status Change	-	-	2	2
Total				16